



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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Governor Office Building, Suite 900

FY-04-124

PSC SETS PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE IN FIDELITY TELEPHONE COMPANY RATE CASE

Jefferson City (January 16, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has established the intervention deadline and hearing schedule in a telephone rate case filed by the Fidelity Telephone Company.

On December 30, 2003, Fidelity Telephone Company filed a rate request with the Public Service Commission seeking to increase annual telephone revenues by approximately \$2,359,970. Fidelity Telephone Company provides telephone service to approximately 16,700 access lines in the Missouri counties of Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Washington and Osage.

Fidelity Telephone Company is seeking to increase the basic monthly telephone rate for one-party residential customers from the current rate of \$7.55 a month to \$11.25 a month. For one-party business customers, the telephone company is seeking to increase the monthly telephone rate from \$14.25 a month to \$18.95 a month. The telephone company is also seeking to increase the rates of a number of other non-basic telephone services including the local toll Outstate Calling Area (OCA) plan and directory assistance charges. In addition, Fidelity Telephone is seeking to increase the rates charged to long distance carriers for access to the Fidelity telephone network to complete a long distance call.

Applications to intervene and participate in this rate case must be filed on or before **January 28, 2004**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: W.R. England, III and Brian T. McCartney, Brydon, Swearngen & England, P.C., 312 East Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 456, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102; Sheldon K. Stock and Jason L. Ross, Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C., 10 South Broadway, Suite 2000, St. Louis, Missouri 63102-1774; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. The Office of the Public Counsel is a separate state agency which represents the general public in matters before the Public Service Commission.

Hearings in this rate request are scheduled to begin on April 5, 2004, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City. Hearings will continue through April 8, 2004, if necessary. The Governor Office Building meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. If a customer needs additional accommodations to participate in this hearing, please call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

The Commission will hold local public hearings in this rate case so that customers of the Fidelity Telephone Company will be able to comment on the rate request or bring any service related problems to the Commission's attention. The times, dates and locations for those local public hearings will be announced at a later date.

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Case No. IR-2004-0272